

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discuss, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are active in this application; Claims 16 and 17 amended by way of the present Preliminary Amendment.

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error in numbering of the claims after Claim 15 (first occurrence).

In view of the present Preliminary Amendment, examination on the merits of Claims 1-17 is in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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<p align="center">Marked-Up Copy</p> <p>Serial No: <u>New Application</u></p> <p>Preliminary Amendment Filed On: _____</p>

Please amend Claims 16 and 17 as follows:

[15] 16. A method for preparing an optical fiber cable defined in Claim 1, comprising distributing the optical fibers in the partitioning spacer, and then forming the sheath by thermoplastic resin extruded from a resin extruder.

[16] 17. The method for preparing an optical fiber cable according to Claim 16, further comprising heat-treating the partitioning spacer under a thermal environment at 70 - 90°C before preparation of the optical fiber cable.